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THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



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MACKIE

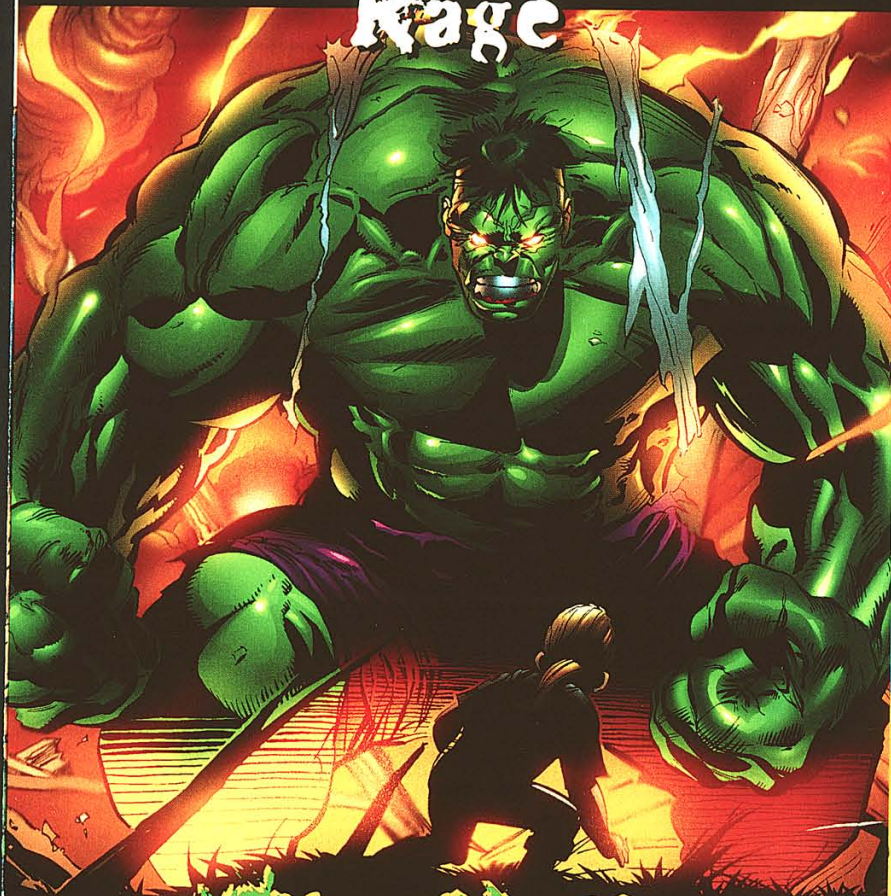
BYRNE

HANNA

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His Wife Is Dead His Friends Are Gone
All He Has Left Is His

Rage



The Hulk

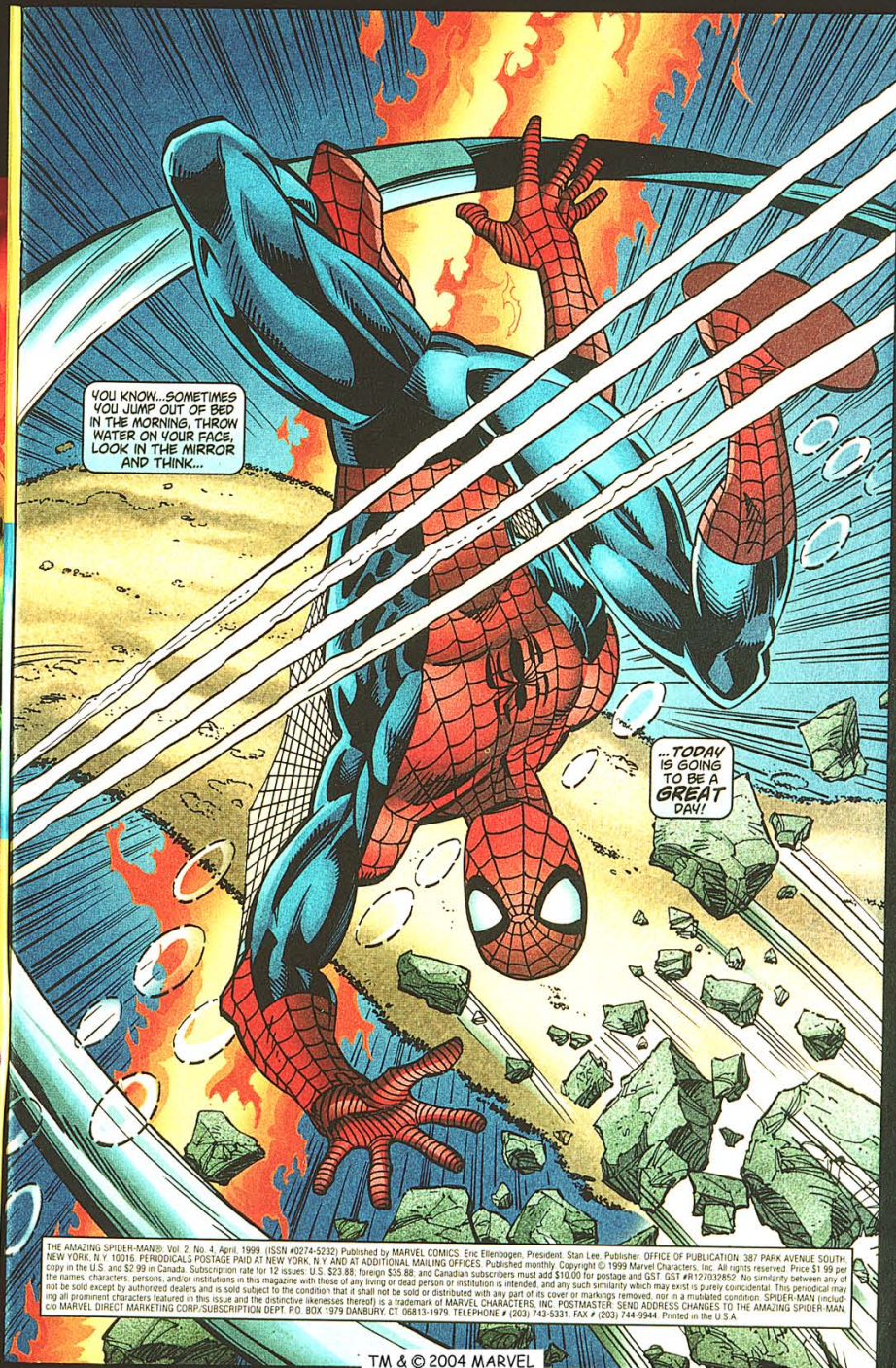
A Bold Look At One Man's War With His Inner Monster
By John Byrne, Ron Garney And Dan Green.

The New Monthly Series Explodes February 17th



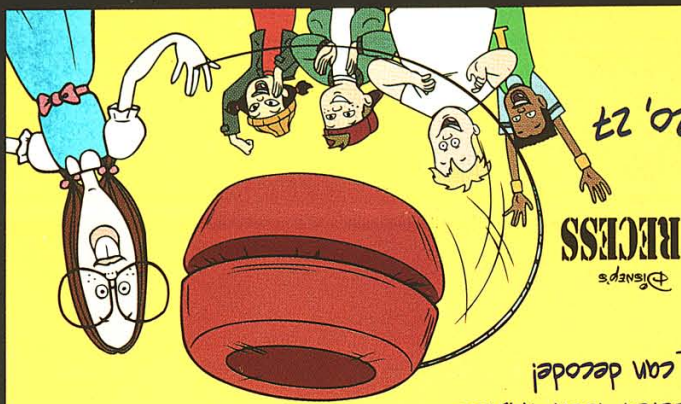
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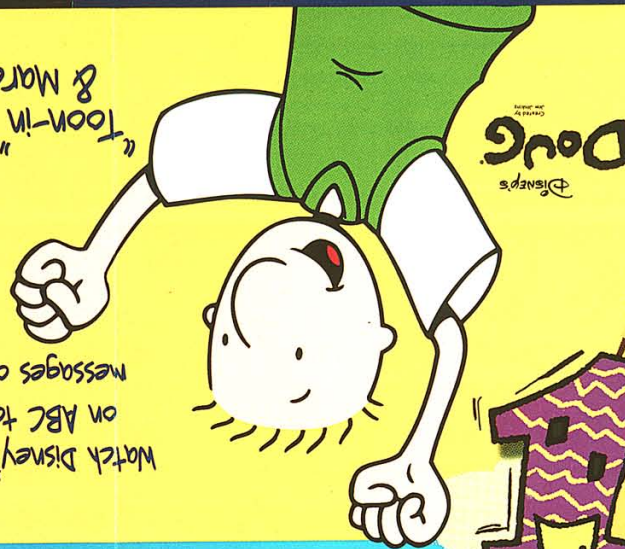
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"Toon-in" Feb. 20, 27
& March 6.

RECESS

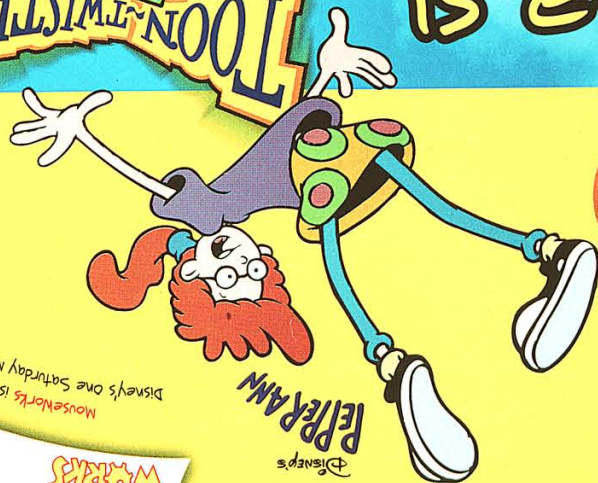
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GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS/RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR BOB HARRAS CHIEF

ISN'T IT AMAZING
JUST HOW WRONG
YOU CAN BE?

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THE INVISIBLE WOMAN,
THE THING AND THE
HUMAN TORCH...

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KNOWN AS THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR --

-- THE GREATEST
TEAM OF ADVENTURERS
WHO EVER GOT THEIR
POWERS FROM A
COSMIC RAY ACCIDENT
IN SPACE.

THE TRAPSTER AND THE
SANDMAN -- HALF OF WHAT
USED TO BE THE F.F.'S
GREATEST ENEMIES --
THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

HOW DID YOURS TRULY
WIND UP IN THE MIDDLE
OF A BATTLE ROYAL
WITH THEM ALL?

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.
IT ALL BEGAN A
FEW HOURS AGO...



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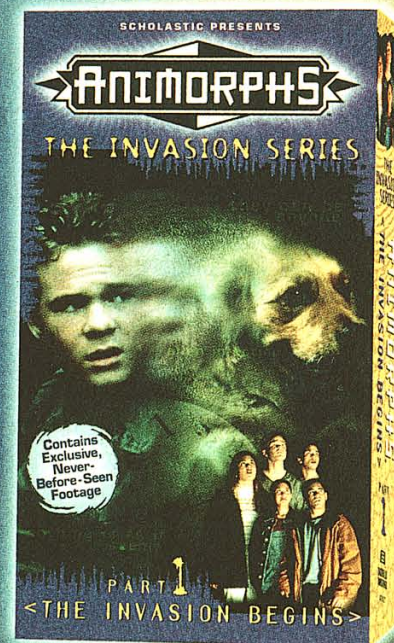
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HOME VIDEO

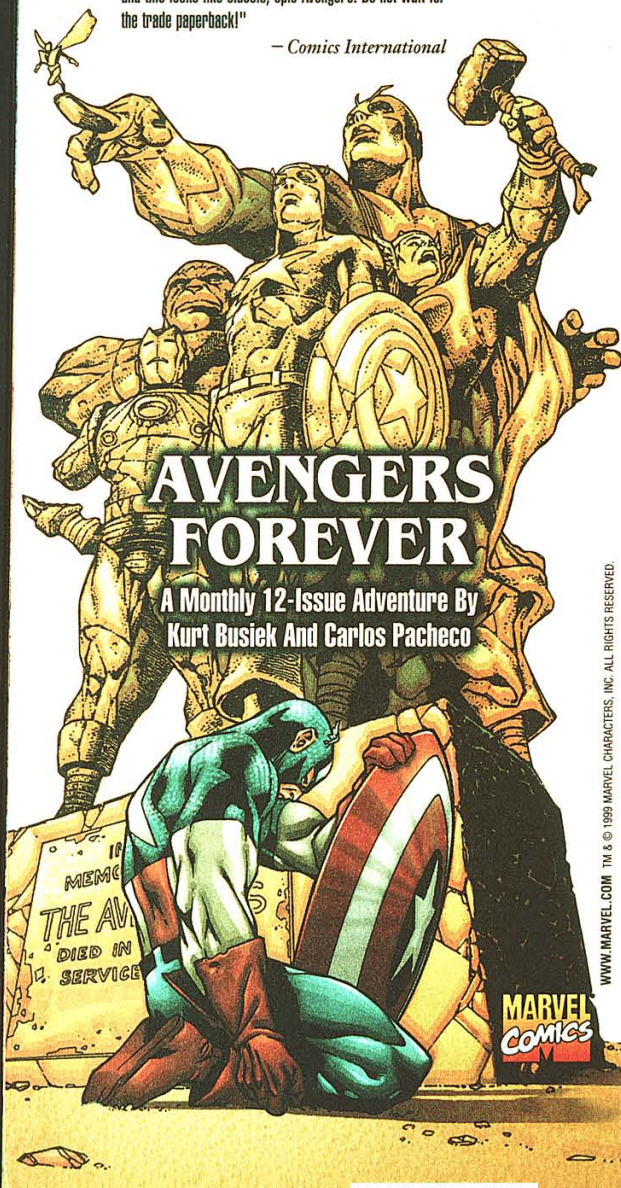
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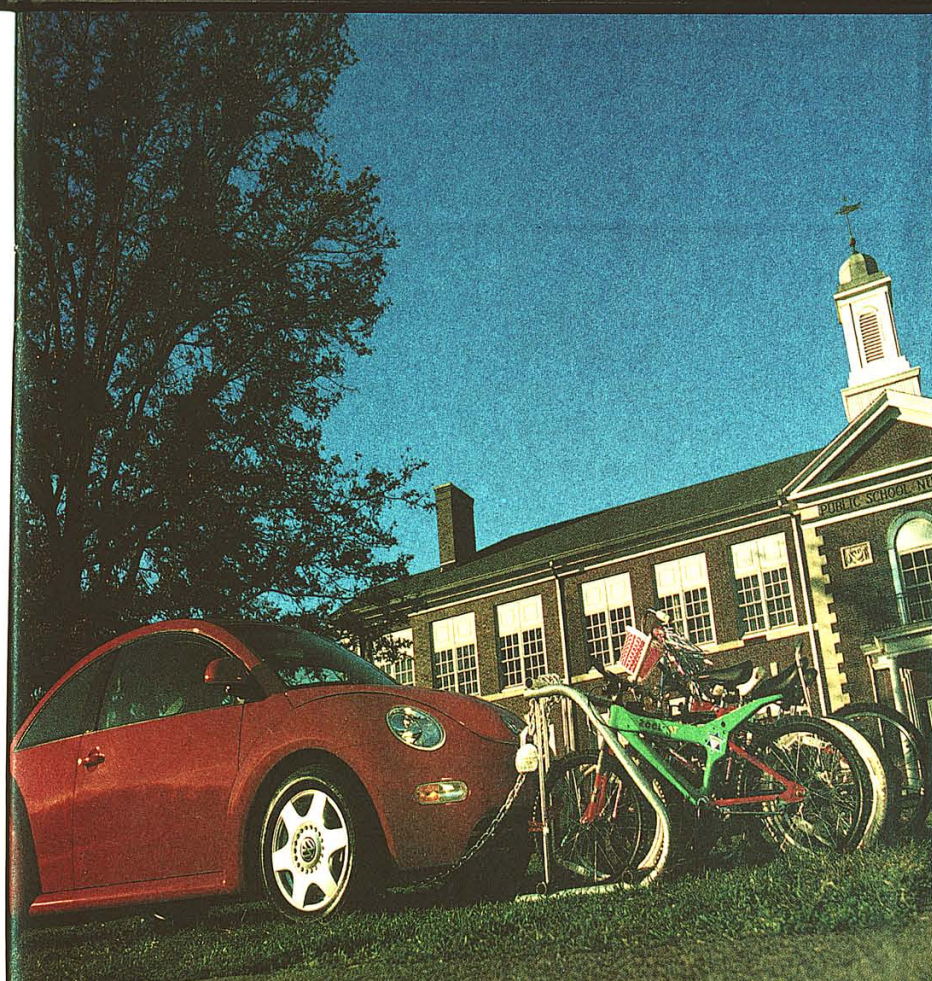
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RELEASES: Grand and first prize winners will be required to sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release and a Publicity Release (where legal, within 21 days of notification). Winners may also be required to execute available forms required by tax authorities and other documentation. In the event of non-compliance with these requirements, prize may be forfeited. If prize or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, prize will be forfeited. Limit 1 prize per individual, family or household. If a prize is won by a minor, the prize may be awarded in the name of the minor's parent or legal guardian, on the minor's behalf. In such case, the parent or legal guardian must sign and return the required documents on the minor's behalf.

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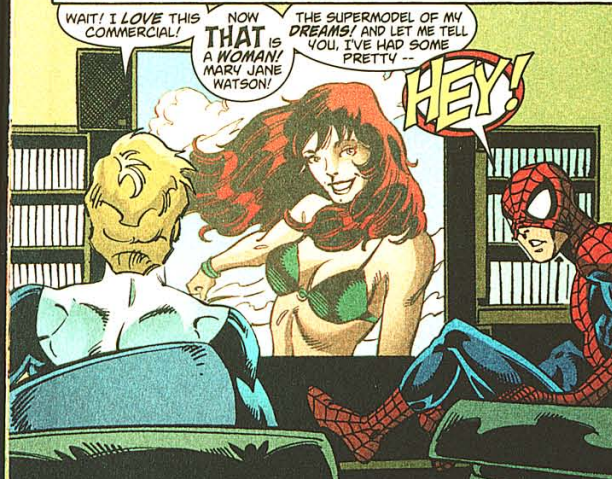
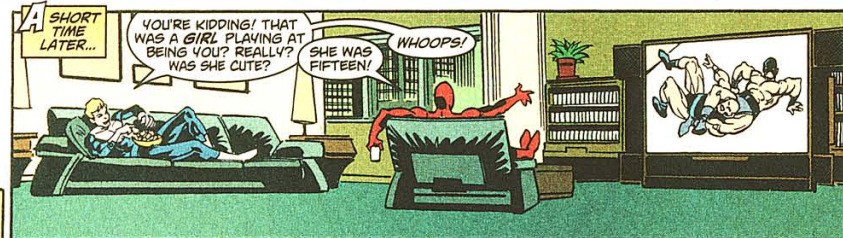
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Find the lucky Oreo marked "CAR" and you snag a cool New Beetle (and watch your friends drool). No license? No problem—the car goes to your parents. Tons of other winning Oreo cookies, too: better be hungry if you find one that says "Oreo for Life." Find one that says "\$" and win a cool \$100. And "Free Oreo" wins a tasty snack pack. So listen to Mom and watch what you eat. You might have a winning Oreo.

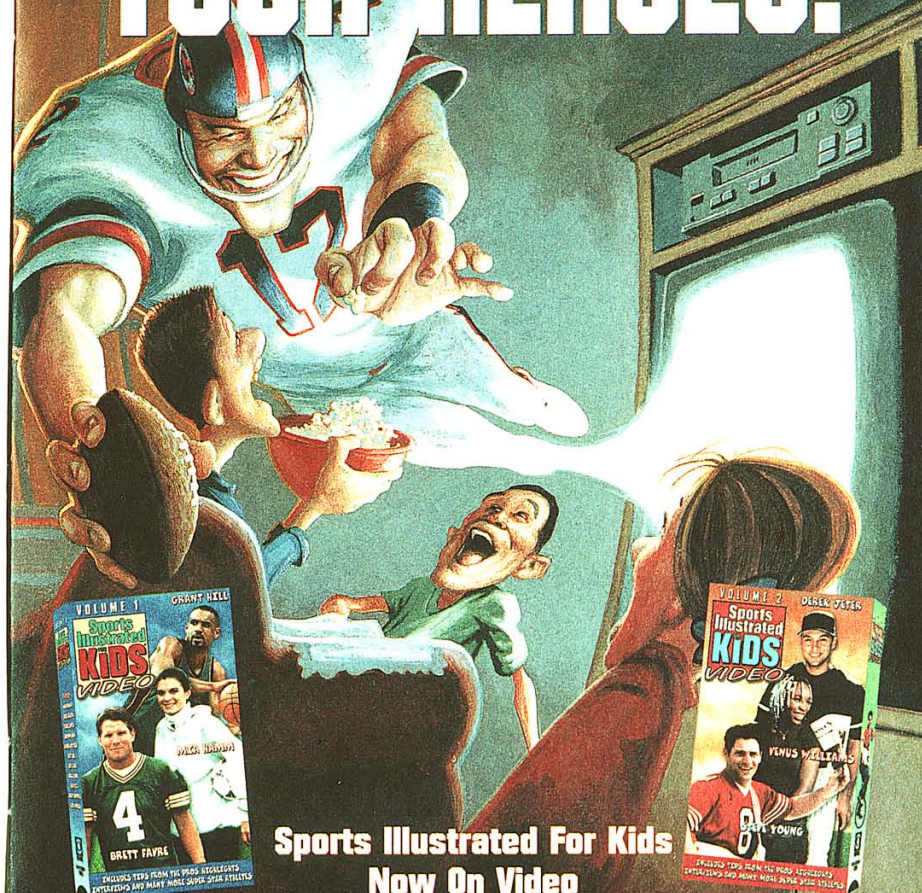


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WHAT'S THE SCOOP, REED?

A MOMENT, JOHNNY. I'VE JUST ABOUT...
...GOT IT!

WE'VE GOT AUXILIARY POWER ON LINE, BUT...



...THE REST OF NEW YORK DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE SO LUCKY.

THE BLACKOUT APPEARS TO BE CONFINED TO THE CITY. THIS ISN'T THE FIRST ONE THAT'S OCCURRED RECENTLY, EITHER.



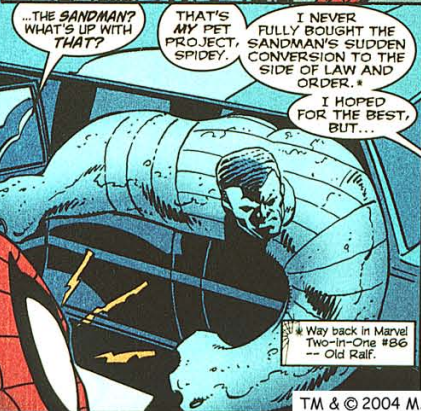
MY INSTRUMENTS PICKED UP AN ANOMALOUS MAGNETIC PULSE JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED.*

IT WARRANTS FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

YEAH, THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I HEAD HOME AND CHECK ON MJ AND AUNT MAY. I --

HEY, GUYS...

...WHAT'S THIS?
ISN'T THAT...

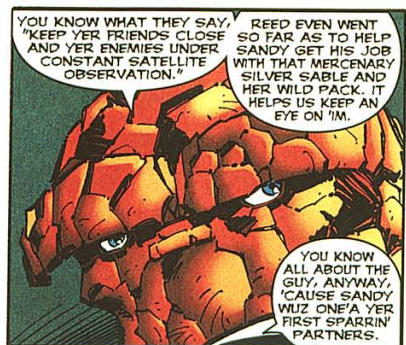


...THE SANDMAN? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

THAT'S MY PET PROJECT, SPIDEY.

I NEVER FULLY BOUGHT THE SANDMAN'S SUDDEN CONVERSION TO THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER.*

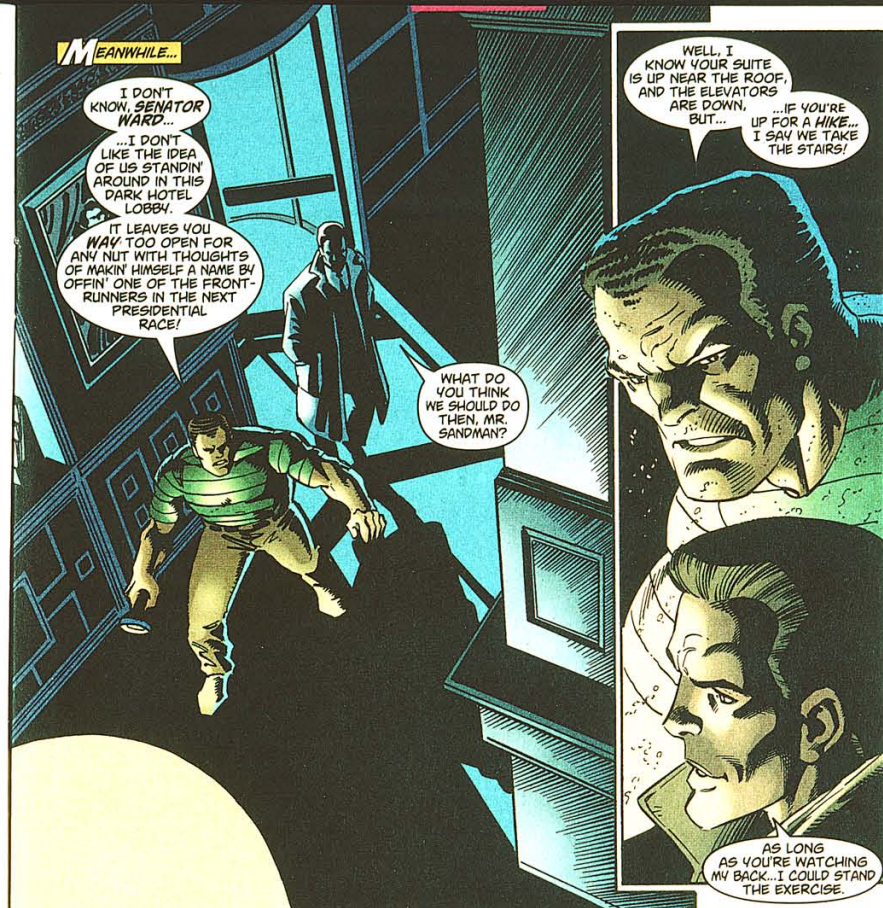
I HOPED FOR THE BEST, BUT...



YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "KEEP YER FRIENDS CLOSE AND YER ENEMIES UNDER CONSTANT SATELLITE OBSERVATION."

REED EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO HELP SANDY GET HIS JOB WITH THAT MERCENARY SILVER SABLE AND HER WILD PACK. IT HELPS US KEEP AN EYE ON 'IM.

YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GUY, ANYWAY, 'CAUSE SANDY WUZ ONE'A YER FIRST SPARRIN' PARTNERS.



MEANWHILE...

I DON'T KNOW, SENATOR WARD...

...I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF US STANDIN' AROUND IN THIS DARK HOTEL LOBBY.

IT LEAVES YOU WAY TOO OPEN FOR ANY NUT WITH THOUGHTS OF MAKIN' HIMSELF A NAME BY OFFIN' ONE OF THE FRONT-RUNNERS IN THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL RACE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO THEN, MR. SANDMAN?

WELL, I KNOW YOUR SUITE IS UP NEAR THE ROOF, AND THE ELEVATORS ARE DOWN, BUT...

...IF YOU'RE UP FOR A HIKE... I SAY WE TAKE THE STAIRS!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE WATCHING MY BACK... I COULD STAND THE EXERCISE.



THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING PAID FOR, SENATOR. TO WATCH YOU REAL CLOSE.

ALL PART OF WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU HIRE ONE OF THE WILD PACK AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL BODYGUARD!

A SHORT TIME
LATER...

PARK AVE

NO! I'M
FINE! I WAS
JUST CONCERNED
FOR YOU AND
AUNT MAY!
I WAS
DOWNTOWN
VISITING SOME OLD
FRIENDS. I FIGURE
IF EVERYTHING GOES
RIGHT... I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO SWING
HOME IN HALF
AN HOUR.



PETER, COULD
YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
AUNT MAY AND I ARE
FINE AND SNUG IN THE
APARTMENT,
BUT --

IT'S SO DARK
DOWN THERE, MARY
JANE. TELL PETER
TO HURRY HOME,
DEAR.



I JUST GOT OFF THE
PHONE WITH JILL. SHE'S
STUCK IN THE LOBBY
OF THE PLAZA.
SHE SOUNDED
REALLY FREAKED.
SOMETHING ABOUT A
CHILDHOOD INCIDENT
AND THE DARK...

SINCE YOU'VE GOT
TO CRUISE RIGHT BY THERE
TO GET HOME... I WAS
HOPING...



I'LL
CHECK ON
HER. SHE'LL
BE FINE.

I
LOVE YOU,
PETER.

I
LOVE YOU
TOO.



EVEN IF I PROVE IT TO YOU BY NOT
TELLING YOU THAT I'VE BECOME SPIDER-
MAN AGAIN, AFTER THE GIRL WHO WAS
IMPERSONATING ME QUIT.

BUT IT'S
NOT EXACTLY LIKE
LYING... IS IT?

A SHORT TIME LATER, JILL
STACY SITS AND WAITS
NERVOUSLY FOR THE LIGHTS
TO COME BACK ON...



HEY, LADY,
WANT SOME
COMPANY?
PETER!



I AM
SO
GLAD
TO SEE
YOU!

ER...
YEAH...
I CAN
SEE!
I DON'T
EVEN GET THAT
KIND OF GREETING
FROM MY WIFE,
MJ!



OOH! I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT THE
DARK... IT'S A THING FROM WHEN I WAS A
KID LIVING IN HONG KONG... I JUST GET
SO SCARED, AND SEEING A FRIENDLY
FACE... ANWAY, I'M SORRY IF
I WAS TOO --

YOU WERENT
TOO ANYTHING!

I WAS JUST
KIDDING AROUND, WE'RE
FRIENDS. I'M HERE TO
HOLD YOUR HAND... IF
YOU NEED IT.

BIG
TIME.



SO WHY ARE YOU
HERE?

OLD FRIEND
OF MY DAD'S... GETTING
TOGETHER FOR A DRINK...
AND NOW THE FRONT DESK
WONT CONNECT ME WITH HIS
ROOM BECAUSE OF ALL THE
COMPUTERS BEING
DOWN.

WELL, LET'S
GRAB A SEAT AND
WAIT AND SEE IF
THE POWER COMES
BACK ON.

COOL.



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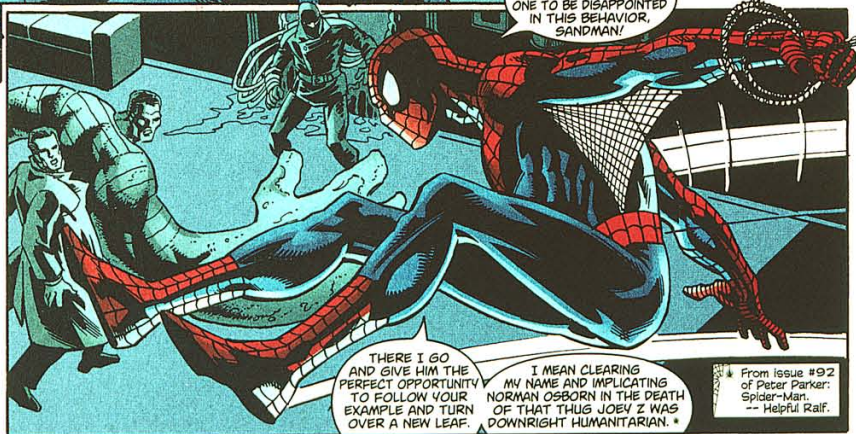




THE TRAPSTER!



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE TO BE DISAPPOINTED IN THIS BEHAVIOR, SANDMAN!



I MEAN CLEARING MY NAME AND IMPLICATING NORMAN OSBORN IN THE DEATH OF THAT THUG JOEY Z WAS DOWNRIGHT HUMANITARIAN. *

* From Issue #92 of Peter Parker: Spider-Man. -- Helpful Ralf.



YOU SHOULD, TOO!

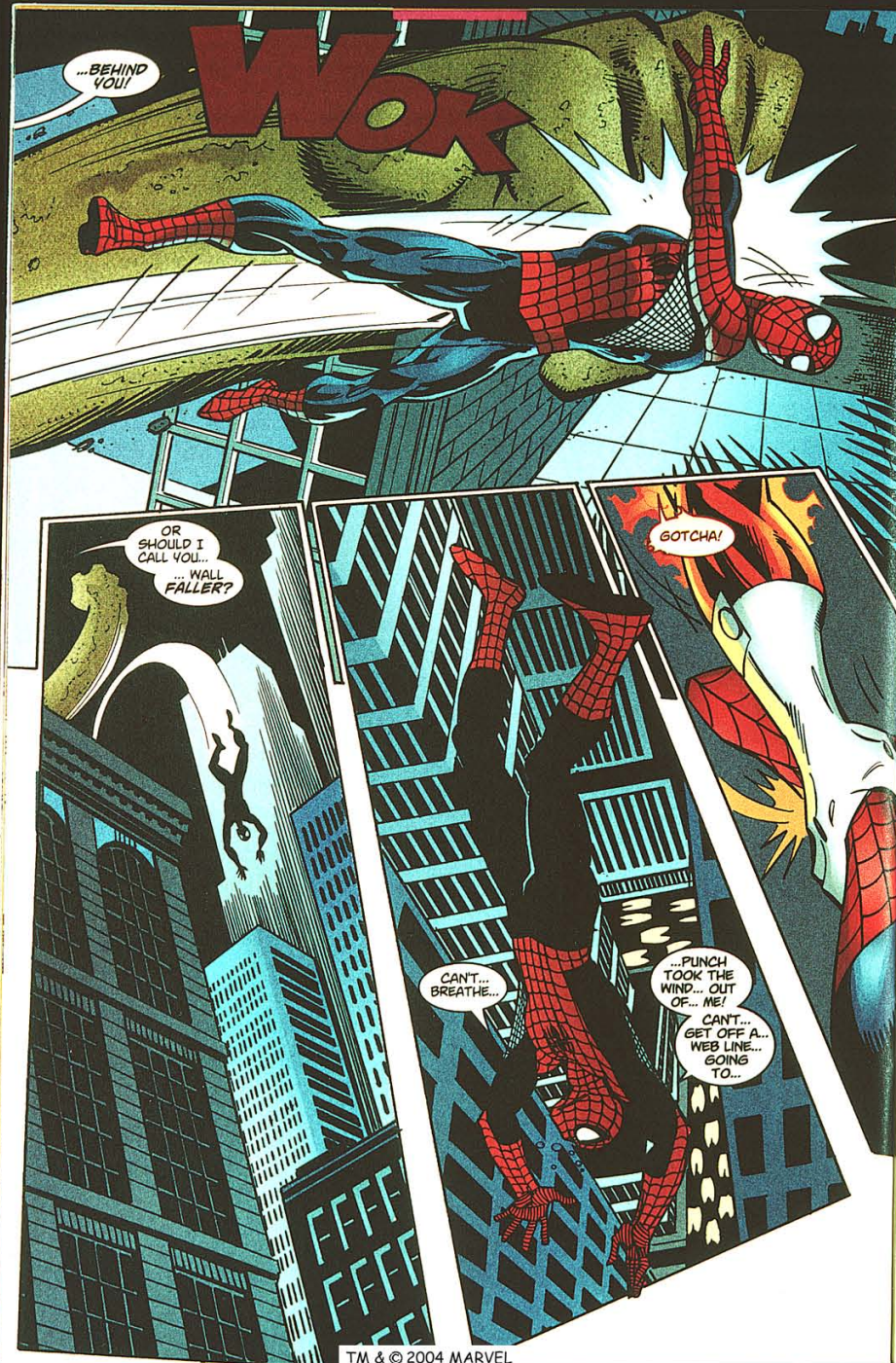


I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... YOU HAD IT IN YOU TO DO YOUR TIME FOR JOEY Z'S DEATH -- BUT **NO!**



...AND I'LL HIT HIM LOW!

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, WALL-CRAWLER! RIGHT...



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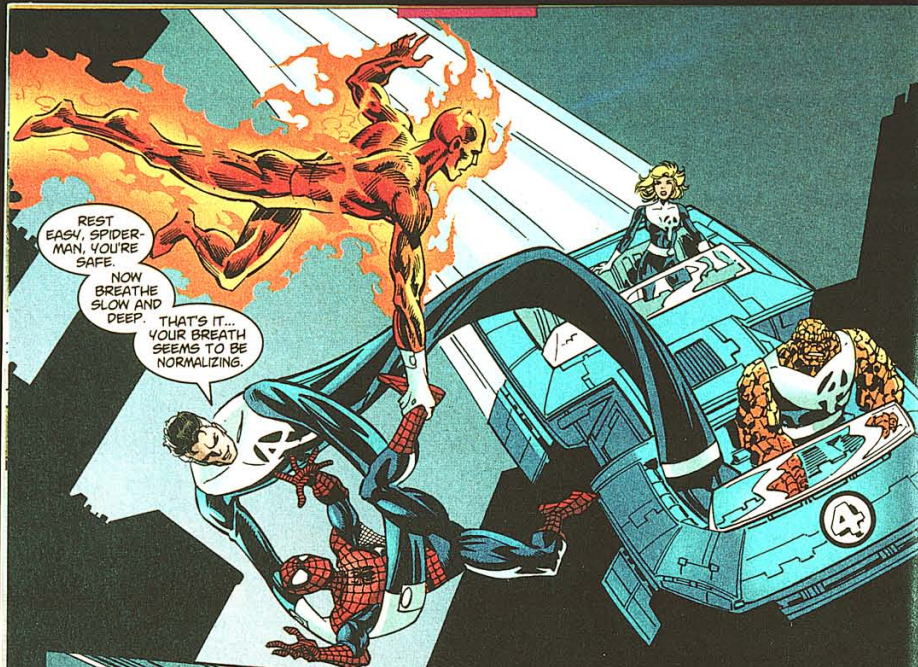
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- ☐ THO Thor
- ☐ BLT Thunderbolts

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- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ GAM Gambit
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
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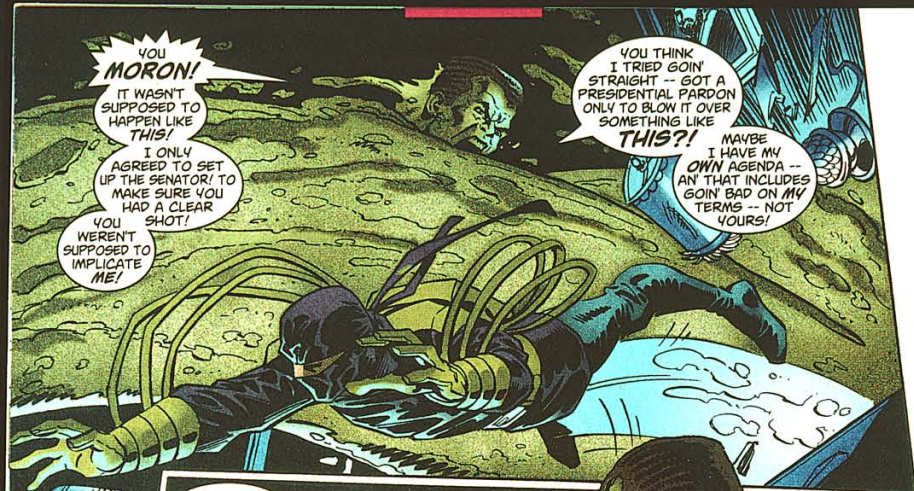
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YOU MORON!

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS!

I ONLY AGREED TO SET UP THE SENATOR! TO MAKE SURE YOU HAD A CLEAR SHOT!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO IMPLICATE ME!

YOU THINK I TRIED GOIN' STRAIGHT -- GOT A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON ONLY TO BLOW IT OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!

MAYBE I HAVE MY OWN AGENDA -- AN THAT INCLUDES GOIN' BAD ON MY TERMS -- NOT YOURS!



OOOH! SOUNDS MIGHTY! WHAT? MAYBE IMPRESSIVE! YOU WERE PLANNING ON TAKING OVER THE WORLD?

TALK ABOUT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

YOU WEREN'T CUT OUT FOR BEING A GOOD GUY -- FACE IT!

NOW WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, WHETHER YOU LIKE THE TIMING OR NOT!

WHEN WE'RE DONE YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH THE BOSS!

BOSS! WHAT BOSS? I DON'T HAVE ANY B --



SHUT UP!

WHERE DID HE GO, YOU JERK?

WHAT?

THE SENATOR! HE'S GONE! AND IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...



...WE'RE BOTH DEAD!



...I CAN'T HAVE ANY WITNESSES.

IF IT MAKES YA FEEL ANY BETTER... I WAS GONNA VOTE FOR YA!

DON'T DO THIS.

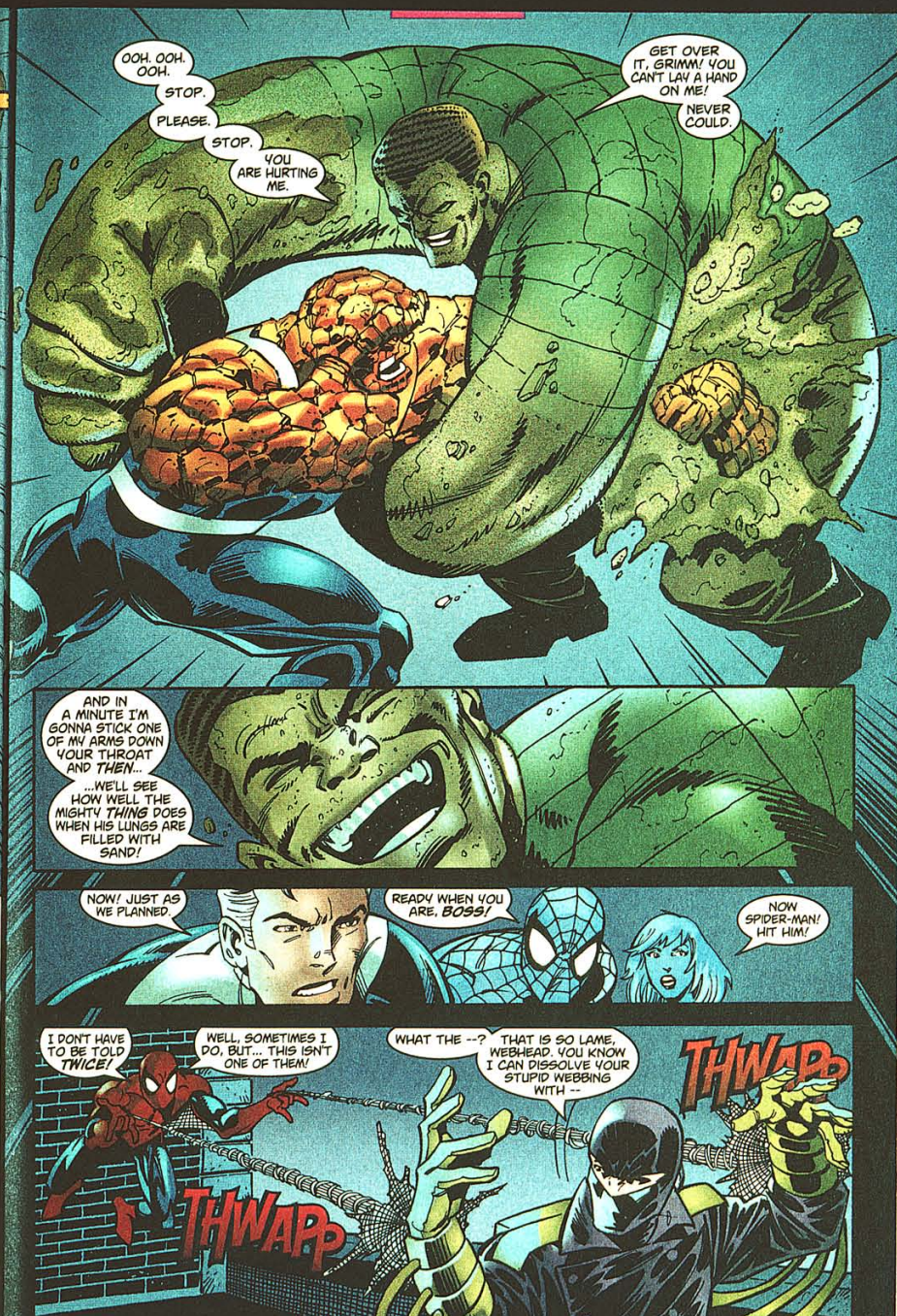
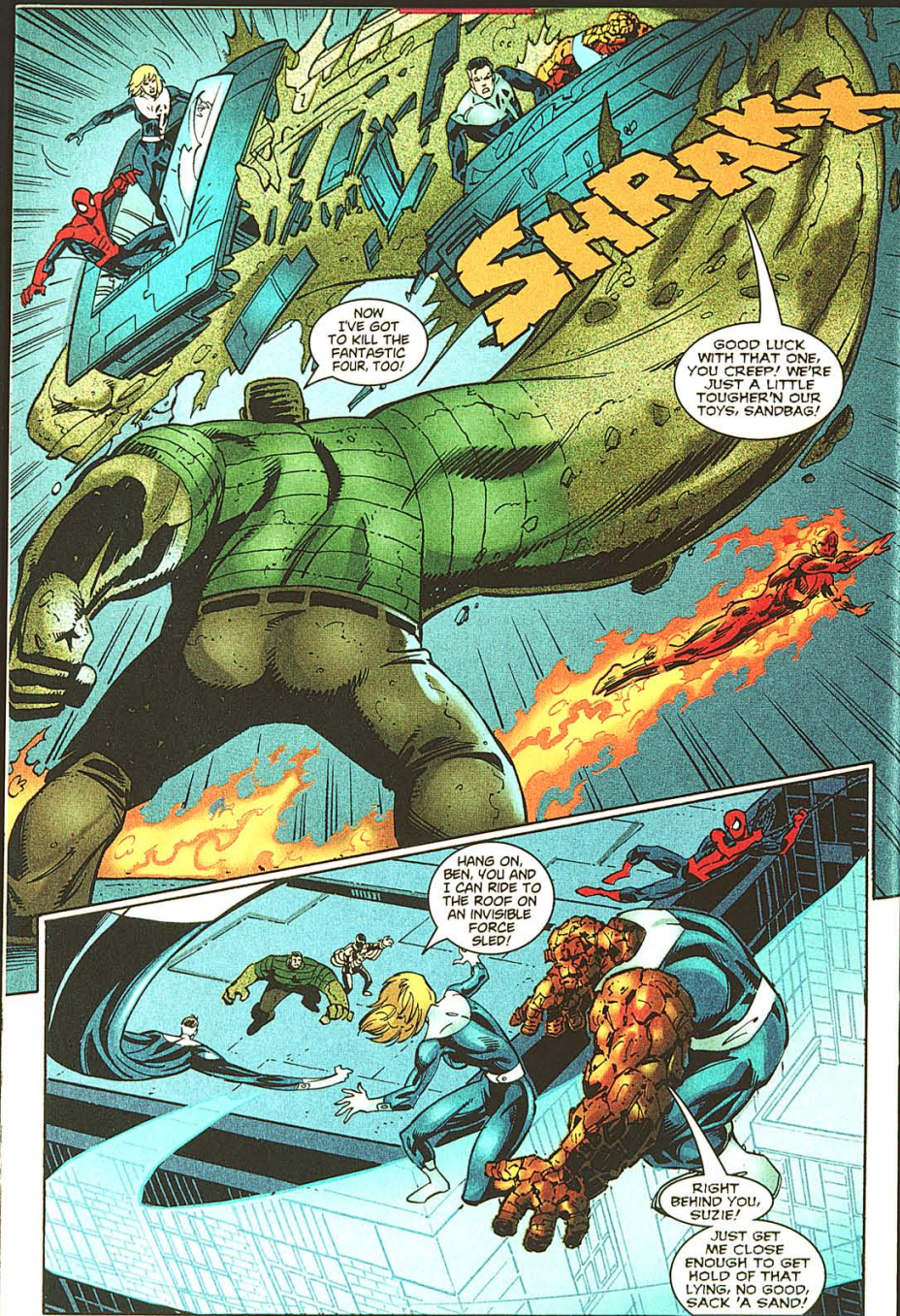
IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN THIS WAY.

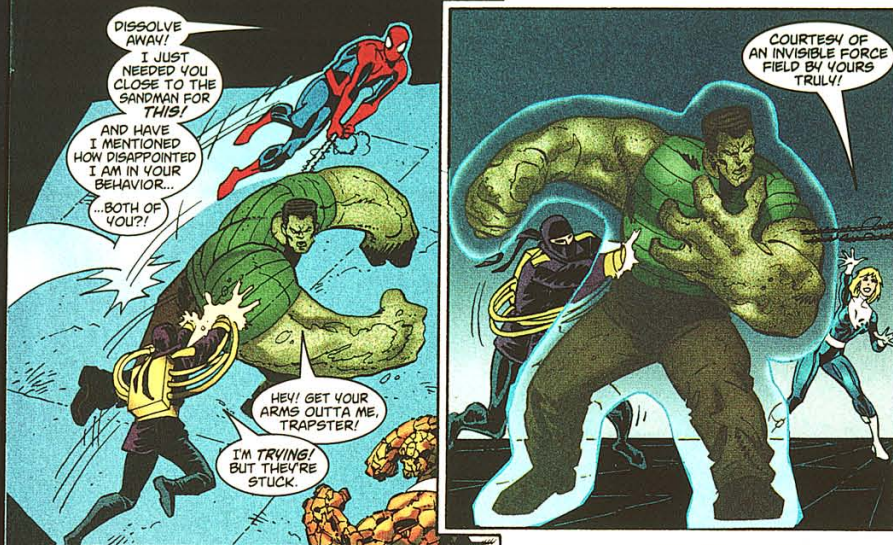


SORRY ABOUT THIS, SENATOR, BUT NOW THAT THE TRAPSTER BLEW MY COVER...

YEEOW!

WONDERFUL! NOW YOU DID IT!





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THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE HAD AID IN THEIR GET AWAY.

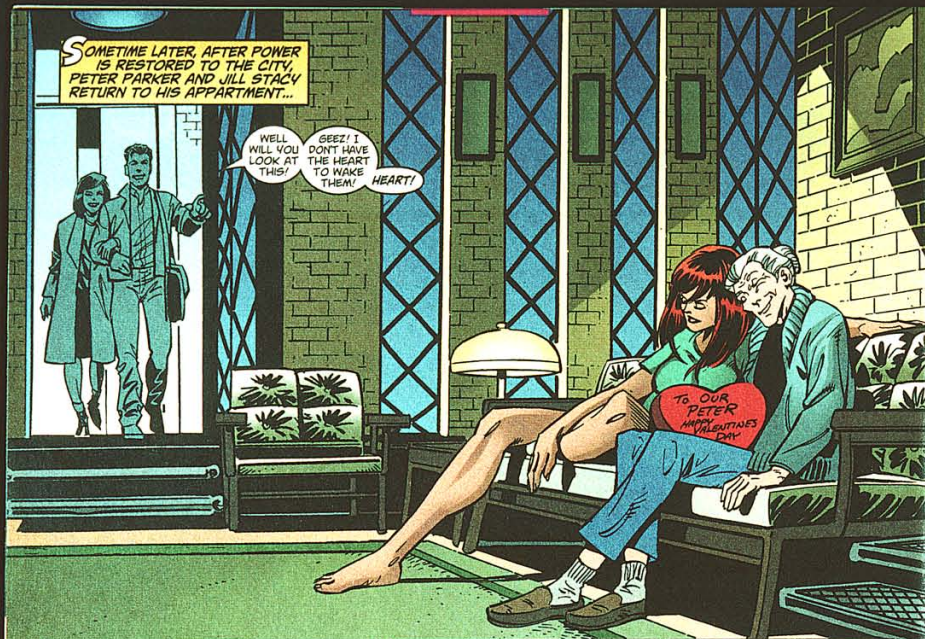
I DOUBT EITHER OF THEM IS CAPABLE OF HAVING PLANNED SUCH AN ASSAULT, OR SUBSEQUENT ESCAPE, ON THEIR OWN. AND I DON'T KNOW WHO MAY HAVE HELPED THEM.

RIGHT NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR LEAVE TO PREPARE FOR A MIDNIGHT MEETING ATOP OUR OLD SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS -- FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.

WELL, WHEN YA GOTTA GO... BUT THIS WAS FUN, FOLKS. NOW I THINK I'M GONNA GO HOME AND GET ALL THE SAND OUT OF MY SHORTS.



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SOMETIME LATER, AFTER POWER IS RESTORED TO THE CITY, PETER PARKER AND JILL STACY RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT...

WELL, I WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS!

GEEZ! I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO WAKE THEM! HEARTY!



SORRY YOU HAD SUCH A HORRIBLE VALENTINE'S DAY, JILL.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PETER. THIS WAS THE BEST ONE I'VE EVER HAD!



SMACK



I COMPLETELY FORGOT TODAY WAS VALENTINE'S DAY! BUT MY TWO GIRLS DIDN'T.



AND NOW, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, THE CRISIS IS OVER.

EVEN AS I SPEAK TO YOU, GOVERNMENT AGENTS ARE INVESTIGATING EXACTLY HOW A SCENARIO SUCH AS THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO OCCUR.



I ASSURE YOU THAT, UPON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO THIS MATTER.

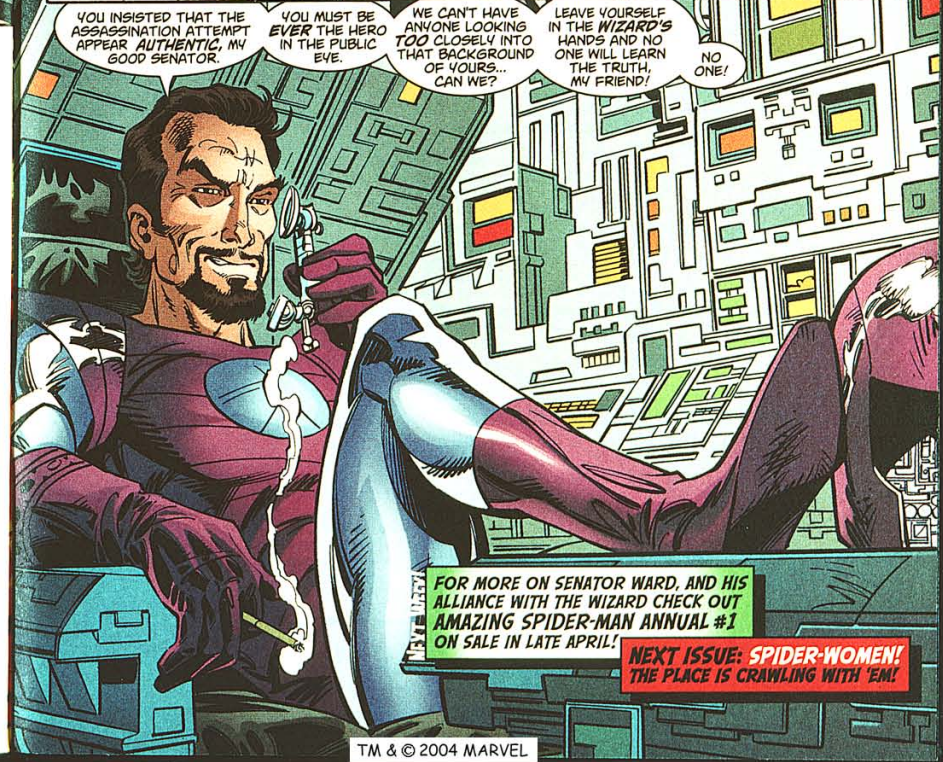
NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME... IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY FOR ALL OF US.



HELLO. YOU! WHAT ARE YOU... INSANE?!

I WAS ALMOST KILLED BY THOSE MADMEN OF YOURS!

THAT WAS NOT PART OF THE DEAL!



YOU INSISTED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT APPEAR AUTHENTIC, MY GOOD SENATOR.

YOU MUST BE EVER THE HERO IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

WE CAN'T HAVE ANYONE LOOKING TOO CLOSELY INTO THAT BACKGROUND OF YOURS... CAN WE?

LEAVE YOURSELF IN THE WIZARD'S HANDS AND NO ONE WILL LEARN THE TRUTH, MY FRIEND!

NO ONE!

FOR MORE ON SENATOR WARD, AND HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE WIZARD CHECK OUT AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 ON SALE IN LATE APRIL!

NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-WOMEN! THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH 'EM!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

Hey, guys,

I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. II, #1. I'm glad that you cut down the number of titles and went with one writer. Howard Mackie was a good choice and I hope he stays with Spider-Man for a long time. John Byrne's art was great. I like his stuff wherever it appears, but it seems to look better when it's in a Marvel book. It's like he's at home.

I do have one question. What was the reasoning behind bringing back Aunt May? She had her purpose once upon a time, but now she's just in the way. I mean, no one picks up the latest issue and says, "I hope Aunt May's in this one." How many copies of THE ADVENTURES OF AUNT MAY would you sell? Right now it seems like May's going to be in the center of things and Mary Jane's going to be on the sidelines. It should be the other way around.

Anyway, thanks for listening and keep putting out great comics.

Jeff Stolman
668 East 7th Street
Winona, MN 55987

Don't you think you're being just a bit hard on May, there, Jeff? Sure, she may not be your favorite character, but many are the readers to whom she is an indispensable character in the makeup of the Spider-Man mythos, readers who feel that Aunt May brings a certain humanity to these books that they lacked ever since ASM #400. Agree or disagree, it's a moot point now. She's back. Period.

Dear Ralf,

I can't believe it! This new beginning for Spider-Man is definitely going in the right direction.

Let's just say that I have been a Spider-Man fan for over 17 years, but because of certain story lines and the death of Aunt May, as well as because of other personal reasons, I lost touch and dropped the Spidey books. Well, here I am in a local comic book store for the first time in a few years. I asked the owner what John Byrne was up to these days. He pointed me to the SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE stories. I couldn't believe it! I have been following John's work since his stint on FANTASTIC FOUR. (Yes, I am one of the faithful 40,000.) It's a dream come true to see him doing Spider-Man. Then I noticed that John Romita, Jr. is drawing a Spider-Man book again. Whoa-hoo! This guy got me started on Spidey when I was 12 years old.

I am a tad upset, however, to

find that Peter Parker is now younger than I am. He was a strong influence on me when I was a kid but I do have to admit that the facelift is a good thing, especially in bringing Aunt May back!

All in all, the new books are fantastic. I love the fact that you are bringing back the cast of characters that made Spider-Man famous in the first place. I mean, a slugfest is all well and good, but if you don't have the foundation behind the story, it tends to be kind of pointless. I care about Robbie, Jonah, Betty and all the rest. They are family.

Keeping the new Spider-Man's identity secret from the readers is very well done. I loved seeing the story from Peter's perspective.

Well, folks, after a long absence, I am back. You have brought in some major talent and I am once again hooked.

Robert Parks
8935 U.S. Highway 16 West
Lot 90
Buffalo, WY 892834

P.S. Years have drifted by since I began reading Spider-Man and I have attained many of my life goals. Yet one little thing remains: I have wanted to see one of my letters printed for 17 years now, guys. What do you say? I even typed it.

Oh, all right. But just this once. What are you going to do now that all of your goals have been achieved?

But seriously, we're glad to hear how much you're enjoying all the books. We couldn't agree with you more about Spidey's supporting cast, undoubtedly one of the strongest in comics.

Dear Arachnights,

The new AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 seems to me a wasted opportunity—a disappointing return to something we've all seen before. I guess I'll have to accept Aunt May's seemingly pointless return, but please try to surprise me and do something fresh with her, something which warrants her return from the "dead." And do the same with Jonah—his ranting this ish was boring, predictable. Sure, he's got very strong self-beliefs and he's the most stubborn guy this side of Adamant Hardhead, Ambassador of Blinkered Vision, but he ain't stupid. Shown as three-dimensional, Jonah can be as complex and believable a character as Peter Parker, but 2-D like this, he's just a comic book cliché all by himself. Sort it out. (Maybe a defining Jonah story by J.M. DeMatties

over in WEBSPINNERS is what's needed, one to which all future writers can refer to when seeking JJJ's myriad moods.)

Pete giving up the webs seemed unreasonable to me at first. His dedication to responsibility has always been stronger than anything else in the past—and I reckon that'll prove true again this time... eventually. But it shows the depth of his feelings for both MJ and his returned aunt that he can overcome the guilt he feels for Uncle Ben's death and put their feelings and wishes first for a while.

This new beginning is a chance to inject the Spiderverse—still the most beloved corner of Comicdom—with new and much-needed excitement. Give us something we've never seen before, while keeping true to the characters and to the Spider-Man concept. March confidently into the next millennium and prove that, while Stan and Steve gave us the perfect groundwork, the new crew can venture into realms undreamt of, and make Spider-Man the undoubted class act in comic shops the world over! Until Uncle Ben, Gwendy and Harry return to life, too, and everyone lives happily ever after, Make Mine Marvel!

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffell, East Yorkshire
YO25 5AZ
ENGLAND

Thanks for the candid observations, Kev. Apparently you're not completely happy with the new status quo, but are willing to accept it. Fair enough. As we move forward with these titles, we can only hope to answer the "call to arms" at the end of your missive with as much poise and purpose as you ask of us.

NEXT ISSUE:

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENT THAT WILL SHAKE FANDOM TO ITS ROOTS: THE DEBUT OF THE ALL-NEW SPIDER-WOMAN! NOT A HOAX! NOT A DREAM! NOT JESSICA DREW OR JULIA CARPENTER! WHO IS THAT MASKED WOMAN? ONLY ONE PLACE TO FIND OUT: HERE, NEXT MONTH, JOIN HOWARD, JOHN, AND SCOTT AS THEY BRING YOU MARVEL'S NEWEST SENSATION! RALF WILL BE AROUND AS WELL, BUT ONLY TO SWEEP UP THE CONFETTI.

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